

Japanese 301 (Fall Semester)
Introduction to Different Genres of Japanese Writing and Film
Amherst College

Instructor-in-charge

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Course description

In Japanese 301 development of higher speaking and writing proficiency levels will be focused upon. The class will be conducted entirely in Japanese. Attending two large classes and two practice sessions per week are required throughout the semester.

Books for the course

- **Required for purchase:**

星新一「気まぐれロボット」

You can purchase the above book at the Department Asian Languages and Civilizations (we will not use this book until the 5th of October, however). The cost of the book will be charged to your account at the end of the semester. This is true for all students, including 5-college interchange students.

- **Recommended:**

The Japanese Stage-Step Course: the grammar textbook. Wako Tawa. 2009. Routledge.

You can find the above book on the reserved shelves at Frost Library.

Course objectives

General objectives for this course are:

- to be familiar with characteristics of different genres of writing;
- to know the difference between spoken and written Japanese;

- to be able to judge situations for appropriate speech and writing styles;
- to be able to discuss and support abstract ideas in sustained conversations and writings.

In order to achieve these objectives, every student must:

- attend every class
- do daily work, as directed and suggested by your instructor;
- communicate the problems he or she has with the material to the instructor as soon as and as often as possible

Policies on deadlines and quizzes

Being successful in a Japanese language class requires meeting deadlines for frequent assignments and preparing thoroughly for quizzes and classes. We understand, however, that keeping up with frequent requirements for any Japanese class may be difficult at times. We have therefore made the following policies to have a little more flexibility.

Attendance:

- Once the class begins and the warm-up session is finished, tardiness will result in a reduction of points in the attendance category (see the grade distribution chart below).

Assignments:

- We allow each student to submit two assignments late per semester without penalty, but the late assignments must be completed within 48 hours of the deadline.

Kanji quiz:

- There will be 12 kanji quizzes per semester, and you must complete 10 out of 12 quizzes.

Tests:

- No make-up test will be given under any circumstances, but the students will have an option of correcting any quiz; in this case, some points may be added to the original grade, and the number of point depends on the quality of corrections.

Finals:

- No delays are allowed for the final written examination or oral tests.

Make-up classes:

- It is not possible to give a make-up class or practice session to a student who was absent. It is your responsibility to check the daily schedule and to know what you have missed with your classmate(s). Please do not ask your instructor if you have missed anything important when you were absent because the answer is always YES. If you have specific questions, we would be happy to meet with you at our offices.
- Other exceptions can be made only with the class Dean's, your doctor's, or relevant individual's note.

Grade distribution

Class and practice session attendance	10%
Practice sessions preparation and performance	10%
Assignments	20%
3 oral tests	15% (5% each)

2 written tests	20% (10% each)
Written final	20%
Kanji writing (see CMS)	5%

Things to remember in practice sessions

- ✓ No English is allowed as soon as you enter your practice session.
- ✓ Japanese should be used among the students in the room as well as with the teacher.
- ✓ When you use English in the session, your teacher will remind you to say it in Japanese.
- ✓ It is required that the students study the material BEFORE coming to each practice session so that the practice sessions will move smoothly and meaningfully.
- ✓ There will be no new material introduced in class, so you should avoid any grammar questions in the practice sessions. If you must ask, wait until the session is over.
- ✓ When you have other questions (e.g. word meanings), ask in Japanese.
- ✓ Do not be afraid to make mistakes. It is natural to make more mistakes when you speak more. But this should not prevent you from speaking Japanese.
- ✓ Do not take it personally when corrected. Being corrected is one of the best ways to learn to speak. In fact, you must get used to being corrected all the time.
- ✓ Come to every practice session. This is probably the most important way to participate in class and learn.
- ✓ Your performance at each practice session is graded according to the degree of your preparation and the level of your performance.
- ✓ You have one sit-in option without penalty.
- ✓ If ever the instructor judges that a student's lack of preparation interferes with the practice session, she may ask that student to take a sit-in option. If that student has already taken the allowed sit-in option, he or she will be asked to restrict his or her participation in the session to listening and observing only. In this case, 5 out of 10 points will be given to the student.

- Tentative practice sessions (Tuesdays and Thursdays, Webster 101): 12:00~12:50, 1:00~1:50, 2:00~2:50. Sign-up sheet in class.

Final written examination

12/18 (Sunday) ~12/22 (Thursday): Self-scheduled examination (announced in the Registrar's website). See CMS for the content of the written final examination.

IMPORTANT: For five-college interchange students: Unfortunately the academic calendar of the five-colleges is not uniform. It is our expectation, however, that all students who take Japanese at Amherst will follow the Amherst calendar, including the final examination schedule as well as the daily schedule. To be fair to other students, we will NOT be able to make special arrangements for the final examinations for the five-college students.

Daily Schedules will be posted on CMS.

Unit 1 – Explanation (9/7~10/4)

Unit 2 – Short-short 「きまぐれロボット」 (10/5~11/1)

Unit 3 – Films (11/7~11/18)

Unit 4 – Poems (11/28~12/14)